

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

Applicant(s)

09 856,487

YANASE ET AL

Examiner

Art Unit

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2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's response to amendment filed on 10/30/03, as to independent claims 21 and 32, the prior arts of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious method for inspecting a semiconductor wafer surface comprising all the specific elements with the specific combination including of at least one of said multiple light optics is a high-angle light optic having a detecting angle that is from 5 degrees to 20 degrees relative to said laser beam and at least another of said multiple light optics is a low-angle light optic having a detecting angle that is from 25 degrees to 75 degrees relative to said laser beam and determining a type and approximate shape of an occurrence associated with the semiconductor wafer based on a ratio of light intensities from the multiple light optics, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claims 21 and 32.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Sang Nguyen whose telephone number (703) 308-6426. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Frank Font, can be reached on (703) 308-4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722 or 7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Nguyen/ sn *SN*
November 13, 2003



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877
Technology Center 2800